Guidance for 2017 Supplemental ESG Funds

Mississippi Home Corporation administers the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program. The ESG program was designed to improve administrative efficiency and enhance response coordination and effectiveness in addressing the needs of homeless persons. ESG is a complex program with different requirements including specific eligibility, reporting, and environmental requirements. The ESG program will provide funding to non-profits to assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness or persons at risk of homelessness to quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis and/or homelessness.

The Supplemental Emergency Solutions Grant Program award of $173,134.00 is being added to the initial ESG program award of $2,231,307.00. Mississippi has identified priority uses for these funds: **Rapid Re-Housing, Street Outreach, Homeless Prevention and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)**. Mississippi has determined that these activities most directly address the goal established by HUD for use of the funds: “to assist communities which lost significant capacity to serve the homeless after January 2016.”

Organizations interested and who have the capacity and experience to carry out the project, understands the need/extent of the problems in the community, who collaborate with local partners and make referrals and can provide measurable outcomes are encourage to apply. All program requirements can be found on HUD’s website and MHC’s website.

Potential applicants must be aware that certain restrictions apply to the use of these funds:

1. These funds are only available for use inside the **Central Mississippi Continuum of Care (CoC)**.
2. The supplemental allocation does not increase the CoCs Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) or the Pro Rata Need for the geographic area of the CoC.
3. The supplemental funds may be expended on any eligible activity under ESG (24 CFR Part 576 Subpart B- Program Components and Eligible Activities.)
4. This is a one-time allocation, with no expectation of future supplemental funding.
5. Recipients will track these funds with its annual formula allocation
6. ESG reporting requirements apply to these supplemental funds. Recipients must enter data on program participants served with the supplemental allocation funds into HMIS along with all other program participants served with formula allocated funds in their recipient’s FY17 eCart.

How Funds will be Allocated

The State will use the 2017 Emergency Solutions Grant Funds Application. Qualified applicants will be expected to propose work that is in accordance with the priorities established in Mississippi’s 2017 Annual Action Plan and Consolidated Plan. MHC collaborated with the CoCs and developed strategic goals guiding the use of FY 2017 ESG funds. MHC will evaluate applications based on how completely they address the following goals and priorities set out in these plans.

A. Achieve the federal goals stated in Opening Doors: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness and accomplish ambitious goals related to the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Olmstead vs L.C.:

1. End and sustain an end to homelessness among veterans by the end of 2016 (funding sources have been defined by VA and SSVF but needs in this population may be addressed using HOME, CoC, and ESG, though could be eligible)
2. End and sustain an end to chronic homelessness by the end of 2016 (the partnerships between ESG, HOME, National Housing Trust Fund, CoC and CHOICE could help achieve this goal while also accomplishing Olmstead goals as the populations often overlap: homeless persons living with mental illness)
3. End and sustain an end to homelessness among families and youth (CoC resources, HOME TBRA, HOME units, National Housing Trust Fund, ESG shelter operations for domestic violence shelters, shelters for women and children, runaway and homeless youth programs, and children's shelters willing to address trafficking, ESG rapid re-housing and prevention coupled with appropriate services)
4. Create a system to ensure that all homelessness is rare, brief, and non-reoccurring (ESG outreach services, navigation services under rapid rehousing, HMIS activities, coordinated entry)

B. Create standards within the CoCs to ensure that ESG and CoC programs align with the goals, utilize evidence-based practices, and promote coordination. Outcomes expectations will be defined and measured by HMIS and site visits. The CoCs will get together to create statewide CoC expectations and standards.

C. In awarding ESG funding to applicants, MS Home Corp will consider measurable outcomes proposed, service delivery standards and models used, and clearly stated actions by a grantee to meaningfully collaborate with the CoC, and other service organizations in local communities whether funded by ESG or other sources. Grantees will be expected to participate in local coordinated entry, HMIS, PIT, and CoC committee work.

D. The CoCs will lead the outreach activities as a way to promote coordinated entry, maintain a by-name list, and make appropriate community referrals. Navigators will assist people who are literally homeless and identified through outreach to access services and housing.

E. The CoCs’ HMIS systems will continue to coordinate efforts and provide data to the community, HUD, and MS Home Corp. The HMIS data over time coupled with the PIT counts will inform the goals and strategies to achieve those goals at a local level. Funding will align with the data-driven goals.

F. MHC, CoCs and ESG funded agencies will coordinate with the Department of Mental Health and Community Mental Health Centers regarding Assertive Community Treatment Teams (ACT Teams) and other community based services with newly created housing options.

Applications are available at [www.mshomecorp.com/federal-programs/esg](http://www.mshomecorp.com/federal-programs/esg)

**Deadline for Applications will be six weeks after Mississippi’s amendment to HUD has been approved.**